factories with 4,350 operatives including 1,361 children and 617 women. 11 of these factories were worked by steam power, an equal number by oil engines and the rest by water power, manual labour or electricity. Perils of various kinds are incidental to the working of factories and it is the duty of every civilised Government to ensure the safety and comfort of the labourers employed therein by making necessary provision for their proper and efficient supervision. To regulate the age limit of the operatives and the hours of their working and to insist on factory managers to provide necessary precautions regarding plants, machinery &c., used in their factories so as to prevent accidents calculated to endanger the personal safety of the workmen, are the generally recognised forms in which the State interferes in these matters. At present there is no law here to enforce any such restraint and Government have off and on found it difficult to secure compliance with their orders. The Bill before you has been drafted on the lines of the British Indian Act No. 15 of 1881. It might be urged that we could have waited with advantage till the report of the recent Factory Commission of British India, which is nearing completion, is published. But in view of the infant stage of factory life in this State, the Government have thought it unnecessary to wait as they are fully alive to the danger of any undue interference with the freedom of contract so essential to the development of trade and industry and as it is not intended to lay down more than a few general and elementary rules. With these observations I beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed.

Mr. Udaya Varma Raja.—Sir, The member in charge of the Bill says that it has been drafted upon the lines of the British Indian Act No. 15 of 1881. Strictly speaking he ought to have said that it has been drafted on the lines of the British Indian Act No. 15 of 1881 as amended by Act No. 11 of 1891, for new sections and verbal alterations introduced by the Act of 1891 do also find a place in the Bill. But I am surprised to find that he has not adopted all the changes brought about by the amending Act. While the Bill has only some of the advantages of the amending Act, it still has some of the disadvantages of the original Act. It would have been a relief to us if the learned member had given in his statement of objects and reasons, his explanation for having so framed the Bill. But I congratulate my friend, the Mover of the Bill, on his having suggested two new and important provisions—the provision for water supply in factories and the provision for furnishing latrine accommodation and separate urinals. These are suggestions for which the operatives and all those interested in them can never be too thankful to him. The other provisions of the Bill are no doubt good though there may be difference of opinion regarding details which I do not think it necessary to refer to at this stage of the Bill. It is highly necessary that there should be a legal enactment to regulate labour in factories. I beg therefore to affirm the principle of the Bill.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Sankara Menon proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. A. Sri Narayanan Thampi, Mr. K. K. Kuruvila, Mr. S. Padmanabha Iyer and the Mover, to report before the next ordinary meeting.

The motion was put and agreed to.

CIVIL COURTS' BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Mr. President and Gentlemen, The Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to Civil Courts in Travancore is now before you, together with the Select Committee's Report and Amendments. The Bill, as you know, consists of 20 Sections. Part I, consisting of two Sections, relates to the preliminary portion; Part II relates, to the establishment and constitution of Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court (Sections 3 to 7). The Bill declares that there shall be two classes of Civil Courts established

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beisdes the High Court. You will note that the number of such Courts is not fixed or limited. It is always open to Government to regulate it according to the public wants and needs. Part III of the Bill, which deals with the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts, includes Sections 8 to 20. Section 8 empowers the Government to fix and vary from time to time the local limits of the jurisdiction of any Civil Court. Sections 9, 10 and 11 relate to the jurisdiction of a District Court. Section 12 deals with the ordinary jurisdiction of Munsiffs. Section 13 relates to the small cause jurisdiction of Munsiffs. Section 14 and 15 deal with the procedure to be followed in small cause suits. Section 16 relates to appeals. Section 17 deals with the valuation of suits for certain lands and Section 18 with power to require witnesses or parties to make oath or affirmation. Strictly speaking, these two Sections may be said to be out of place in this Regulation, but they have been inserted here for the sake of convenience. Section 19 prescribes the law to be administered by Courts to natives upon questions regarding succession, inheritance, marriage, caste or any religious usage or institution. Section 20 lays down that no District Judge or Munsiff shall try any suit in which he is interested.

The above is a short synopsis of the whole Regulation. Gentlemen, I have no doubt that you all agree with me in considering that the existing Civil Courts' Regulation does not satisfy the requirements of the country and that an amendment of the Regulation is absolutely necessary, both in the interests of the public and of the over-worked judicial officers. The proposed Regulation will, it is hoped, remedy defects and satisfy the present conditions of the country.

I therefore move that the Bill and Report be taken into cosideration.

Mr. Udaya Varma Raja—Sir, The Report of the Select Committee and the Bill as amended by them were published in the Gazette of the 12th May and spare copies thereof received by the members on the 21st idem. The Bill has not therfore satisfied the conditions laid down in Article 46 of the Legislative Council Rules. I beg therefore to oppose the motion for taking up the Bill for consideration at this meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Subramonia Iyer.

Mr. Ananda Row then proposed that the meeting be adjourned to Saturday the 20th June, at 12 noon, for consideration of the Bill.

Seconded by Mr. Govinda Pillai.

Carried.

The Council adjourned at 12—40 P. M.

P. RAJAGOPALA CHARI,
President.

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